

PRESERVING: ■ FAMILY FARMS ■ SOIL ■ SCENIC VIEWS
■ RIVERS & STREAMS ■ CULTURAL SITES ■ SCENIC BYWAYS
■ GROUND WATER ■ RURAL CHARACTER



Clarke County Easement News

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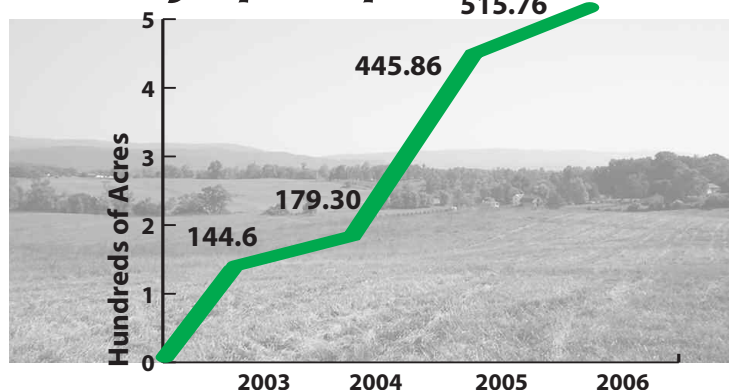
Grants Help Save Three Family Farms in Clarke County

The Authority has received grants — totaling more than \$500,000 — from two funding sources to purchase easements that will help preserve three working farms in Clarke County.

The first grant for \$228,150 is from the Preservation Trust Fund that is part of the Virginia Outdoors Foundation (VOF). The Foundation was established in 1966 by the General Assembly to conserve scenic, scientific, natural, historic, and recreational areas for the public's benefit. These funds — together with an additional \$5,000 grant from VOF for surveying, legal fees, etc. — will establish a permanent easement on 68 acres of farmland in the central part of the County, along the Shenandoah River. The owner has agreed to retire three development unit rights.

The second grant for \$306,000 is from the National Resource Conservation Service Farm and Ranch Lands Protection Program. It provides grant opportunities to localities for parcels of land possessing prime soils. The funds will help the Authority purchase easements on a 99-acre farm, in the north central portion of the County and 48-acre farm located in the south western portion of the County. The owners have each agreed to retire three of their remaining development rights, retaining one or none on their respective farms.

Authority Adds 515 Additional Acres of Open Space



The Virginia Outdoors Foundation (VOF) purchases and administers easements throughout the state, including Clarke County. The VOF, however, will not accept an easement on less than 50 acres of land. To foster open space, and protect the county's rural heritage, the Clarke County Board of Supervisors authorized the creation of the Conservation Easement Authority in 2002 to ensure that smaller parcels containing significant natural, cultural, or scenic value would not be lost. This vital decision has helped:

- Add 515.76 acres to Clarke County's open space now totaling nearly 16,000 acres
- Manage rural sprawl by retiring 14 dwelling unit rights
- Protect significant historic and natural resources from loss or destruction

Conservation Easements: True or False?

Test your knowledge about conservation easements. Answers on the reverse side.

When you put an easement on your land you:

- ☐ T ☐ F Do not have to grant public access to your land
- ☐ T ☐ F Can sell your land
- ☐ T ☐ F Can farm, hunt, fish or harvest timber on your land
- ☐ T ☐ F Can pass your land on to your kids
- ☐ T ☐ F Can keep some development rights
- ☐ T ☐ F Can get significant benefits for donating an easement
- ☐ T ☐ F Will leave a lasting legacy for future generations

Q. Which county in Virginia has the second largest percentage of permanently protected open space?

A. Clarke County!

The balance of the funds to purchase these easements will come from the county as well as contributions from Easement Authority donors. One of the key advantages of establishing the Authority is the ability to qualify for grants of this type — enabling the County to do more with less.

Greenway Court: Historic Treasure Preserved Forever



When the Clarke County Easement Authority purchased a conservation easement on Greenway Court in 2003, it not only protected 150 acres of open space in Clarke County, it ensured that a vital piece of American history would endure forever.

Owned by Thomas Lord Fairfax, the only member of the British aristocracy to occupy a permanent residence in the American colonies, the Greenway Court estate — and the land surrounding it — helped educate and enlighten a young surveyor who later became the first president of the United States.

The significance of Greenway Court was recognized by the National Park Service when it was added to their list of national historic landmarks in 1975 — one of fewer than 2500 sites in our nation to receive this designation.

Answers
to Quiz:
All True!

Did You Know...

- Gov. Kaine expects more land to be developed in the next twenty years in Virginia than in the last 400
- Virginia loses 46,000 acres of rural land each year

■ The Shenandoah River was recently listed as the fifth worst river in America from a water quality standpoint

■ Prime soils— the kind needed to grow crops and sustain life — have decreased by 76% in the last ten years

Would your group like to host a presentation and discussion on open space?
Please call Alison Teeter at 540 955-5134 for details.

Many Thanks To ALL Our Contributors!

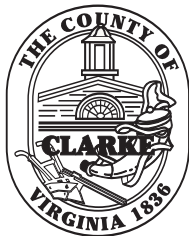
as of September 30, 2006

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**Clarke County
Conservation
Easement
Authority**

102 North Church Street
Berryville, VA 22611

helping preserve open space in Clarke County
Complete and mail this form with your tax deductible contribution today.

YES! I want to help preserve open space in Clarke County.

Please accept the enclosed tax-deductible contribution in the amount checked below.

☐ \$15 ☐ \$25 ☐ \$35 ☐ \$50 ☐ \$75 ☐ \$100 ☐ Other \$ _____

☐ Also, send me news and updates via this e-mail address: _____

☐ Also, send me information about conservation easements

☐ I can't make a donation right now, but please put me on your mailing list for news and updates

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Make check payable to: Clarke County Conservation Easement Authority and mail to the address above.